

**COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS FOR INFERRING ANCESTRY****ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

Ancestry informative marker (AIMs) polynucleotides that contain a single nucleotide polymorphism or that contain an insertion or deletion, are provided, as are methods of using panels of the AIMs to draw an inference as to a trait of an individual. The trait can be, for example, biogeographical ancestry, a pigmentation trait, responsiveness to a drug, or susceptibility to a disease. Also provided are methods of determining the proportional ancestry of an individual. Reagents and kits also are provided.